

# IT IS WRITTEN

March 26, 2023 | Reggie Roberson

**WARM UP QUESTIONS:** Have you ever thought something was the cause of a problem, but it turned out to be something completely different? Share about that experience.

**READ:** Isaiah 1:2-23; 9:1-7

**FOCUS:** God's solution to our deepest problem is Jesus Christ.

**OBSERVE:**

Isaiah sees a problem (Isaiah 1)

- Isaiah has a vision of Israel being carried into exile because of their idolatry. In serving other gods than the Lord and doing wrong to others, they have acted like Satan (v.4). The religious leaders neglect the vulnerable, and evil reigns in the cities (v.21-23). Consequently, even though they still engage in their external religious practices, they mean nothing to God (v.10-15). Israel's problem is also our problem. Do we allow things other than God to be our master?

God's solution to our deepest problem (Isaiah 9:1-7)

- For a time, God humbled Israel by giving them over to the people whose idols they had begun to worship. The root of their sin of idolatry and finding life in something other than God is pride (2:6-22).
- In their pride, the Israelites refused to depend on God, refused to submit to God, and thought they were the source of their success and wealth. They thought too highly of themselves and devalued others. In our pride, we do the same things.
- Like the Israelites, sometimes God uses our circumstances to humble us. However, we need something greater than a process of dealing with challenges to help to overcome this pride in our lives.

How do we respond? (Isaiah 1:16-19)

- Repent – We turn away from sin and turn towards God (v.16-17).
- Trust – We believe that God in Jesus Christ has provided forgiveness for our sins and power to not be mastered by our pride through the cross. Christ took on our sins and gave us His righteousness so we can be free from shame and guilt (v.18).
- Obey – We pray and ask God to give us a willing heart so that we desire to obey Him. Further, we seek to understand God's will by regularly reading the bible and praying. Finally, we actively *do God's will, God's way and in God's time* (v.19).

**REFLECT:**

- Has anyone ever given you a warning, like Isaiah did Israel, that you ignored? How did that turn out?
- What do you view as your biggest problem or need in life?

**TAKING ACTION:**

- Consider an area of your life not fully submitted to God. Repent and ask God for forgiveness. Pray and listen for what He is calling you to do in response. How do you repent and obey Jesus as part of your regular rhythm of life?

**PRAY:**

*Lord, You are holy and mighty. Thank You for sending Your Son to save us from our sin. We repent of our sins against You and accept You as our Savior and Master. Fill us with Your Holy Spirit and make us new so that others might come to know You through Your work in our lives. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.*

